

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

Claims 1. - 88. (canceled).

89. (new): An information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a communicating unit, arranged to communicate information with each of plural terminal devices on the network;

a domain information acquiring unit, arranged to acquire domain information of the network;

a first acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, to acquire first information related to one terminal device, from among the plural terminal devices, whose information is acquired by said domain information acquiring unit;

a second acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the first information acquired by said first acquiring unit, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the one terminal device whose first information is acquired by said first acquiring unit;

a third acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit, to acquire a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired by said second acquiring unit;

a storing unit, arranged to store a data structure of the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, the first information acquired by said

first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit and the use status of the peripheral device acquired by said third acquiring unit; and

a display unit, arranged to display, after said third acquiring unit has acquired the use status of the peripheral device and said storing unit has stored the domain information, the first information, the second information and the use status of the peripheral device, (1) information of the one terminal device, and (2) information and use status of the peripheral device.

90. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein

said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit and said third acquiring unit make inquiry of the one terminal device to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the most-recently acquired information and use status.

91. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein

said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit and said third acquiring unit make inquiry of the one terminal device to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the most-recently acquired information and use status.

92. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein

said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit and said third acquiring unit receive and obtain both the information and the use status communicated to them by the one terminal device, and

said display unit updates the display content based upon the communicated information and use status.

93. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, further comprising a selecting unit, arranged to be operable by a user to select a desired peripheral device from among plural peripheral devices displayed by said display unit,

wherein a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting operation by the user via said selecting unit.

94. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device.

95. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device.

96. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device.

97. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein said first acquiring unit acquires, as information of the one terminal device, information of a terminal device within a predetermined network domain.

98. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 89, wherein said display unit displays a terminal device and a peripheral device, which are displayed, by way of display elements, and also displays existence of a connection between the terminal device and the peripheral device by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof.

99. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 98, wherein said display unit displays thereon the connection condition of the peripheral device based upon a sort of line(s) used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device.

100. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 98, wherein, when said display unit displays the connection condition of the peripheral device, said display unit selects an icon corresponding to the condition of the peripheral device from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon.

101. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 100, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a peripheral device is busy, and also another icon for representing that a peripheral device is not under use.

102. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 100, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

103. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 100, wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

104. (new): An information processing apparatus according to Claim 100, wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling a peripheral device is not installed in the peripheral device.

105. (new): A control method for an information processing apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

a communicating step of communicating information with each of plural terminal devices on the network;

a domain information acquiring step of acquiring domain information of the network;

a first acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the domain information acquired in said domain information acquiring step, to acquire first information related to one terminal device, from among the plural terminal devices, connected to the domain whose information is acquired in said domain information acquiring step;

a second acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired in said first acquiring step;

a third acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the second information acquired in said second acquiring step, to acquire a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired in said second acquiring step;

a storing step of storing a data structure of the domain information acquired in said domain information acquiring step, the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, the second information acquired in said second acquiring step and the use status of the peripheral device acquired in said third acquiring step; and

a display step of, after acquisition of the use status of the peripheral device in said third acquiring step and storage of the domain information, the first information, the second information and the use status of the peripheral device in said storage step, displaying information of the terminal device whose first information is acquired in said first acquiring step, and displaying information and use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired in said second acquiring step and whose use status is acquired in said third acquiring step.

106. (new): A storage medium which computer-readably stores a program to achieve a control method for an information processing apparatus connected to a network, said method comprising:

a communicating step of communicating information with each of plural terminal devices on the network;

a domain information acquiring step of acquiring domain information of the network;

a first acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the domain information acquired in said domain information acquiring step, to acquire first information related to one terminal device, from among the plural terminal devices, connected to the domain whose information is acquired in said domain information acquiring step;

a second acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired in said first acquiring step;

a third acquiring step of performing an acquisition function based on the second information acquired in said second acquiring step, to acquire a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired in said second acquiring step;

a storing step of storing a data structure of the domain information acquired in said domain information acquiring step, the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, the second information acquired in said second acquiring step and the use status of the peripheral device acquired in said third acquiring step; and

a display step of, after acquisition of the use status of the peripheral device in said third acquiring step and storage of the domain information, the first information, the second information and the use status of the peripheral device in said storage step, displaying information of the terminal device whose first information is acquired in said first acquiring step, and displaying information and use status of the peripheral device

whose second information is acquired in said second acquiring step and whose use status is acquired in said third acquiring step.